

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 11763 061334Z

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8564

S E C R E T MANILA 11763

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPTO 50

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3

TAGS: PFOR, RP, US, (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR REQUEST I MET PRIVATELY WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS FOR TWENTY MINUTES THIS MORNING FOLLOWING OUR BREAKFAST AND SUBSEQUENT SESSION ON THE PHILIPPINE BASE ISSUE.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT YOU WERE UNABLE TO COME TO MANILA, BUT APPRECIATED YOUR CONCERN OVER THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS AS EVIDENCED BY YOUR REQUEST THAT I REPRESENT YOU IN A PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH HIM ON THIS ISSUE. HE BELIEVES THAT ANY FINAL SOLUTION WILL REQUIRE SOME FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL DECISIONS FOR WHICH HE HOPES TO DEAL WITH YOU MORE DIRECTLY.

3. FOR REASONS RELATED TO BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, PRESIDENT MARCOS NEEDS A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO DEFEND THE PHILIPPINES UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. HE ALSO REQUIRES FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE SPECIFIC RESPONSE WE WOULD UNDER TAKE IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK AGAINST THE PHILIPPINES, INCLUDING PHILIPPINE FLAG VESSELS SPECIFICALLY IN CONNECTION WITH REED BANK

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WHERE THEY MAINTAIN A DISPUTED CLAIM. HE INDICATED THAT THIS

NEED NOT BE IN THE FORM OF AN OFFICIAL WRITTEN REPLY;
HOWEVER, HE EXPECTS THIS CLARIFICATION FROM THE HIGHEST
LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT, PRESUMBABLY FROM YOU AND PRESIDENT
FORD, WHICH WOULD BE DIRECTED TO HIM PERSONALLY.

4. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN A GENERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE NEGOTIATING PANELS FOR A SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS,
AFTER SOME DISCUSSION PRESIDENT MARCOS AGREED THAT WE
SHOULD CONTINUE IN AN EFFORT TO REACH A SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. HE MENTIONED THE
POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE IN ONE MONTH
BUT MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND UPON REMOVAL OF
ANY AMBIGUITIES THROUGH SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO THEIR
AIDE MEMOIRE (SEE SEPTTEL) REGARDING OUR COMMITMENTS UNDER THE
MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

5. I BELIEVE THAT MY VISIT WAS HELPFUL IN FURTHER
CLARIFYING PRESIDENT MARCOS' CONCERNS AND OBJECTIVES
WITH REGARD TO OUR BASES NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHERMORE,
IT MAY ALSO PROVE TO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN ACCELERATING THE
NEGOTIATION PROCESS; HOWEVER, I DON'T ANTICIPATE ANY AGREEMENT
IN A MONTH AS MANY DIFFICULT HURDLES REMAIN WHICH I WILL WANT
TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IN GREATER DETAIL ON MY RETURN.
ROBINSON

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